

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 MC-02 ACDA-07 IGA-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GJ, OAS

SUBJECT: PM GAIRY'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: BRIDGETOWN 184 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GRENADA'S PM GAIRY VISITED WASHINGTON
JANUARY 24-29 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY THIS SPRING IN GRENADA AND FOR MEETINGS WITH
USG OFFICIALS. GAIRY USED HIS VISIT TO SEEK FINANCIAL
AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, BOTH FOR OASGA AND FOR ECONOMIC
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DEVELOPMENT. HE GOT NO RPT NO COMMITMENTS FROM USG,
BUT MAY CHOOSE TO SAY HE DID. IN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT AT
OAS LUNCH HE ATTACKED FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND OUR OAS
REP. REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND
SECRETARY VANCE COULD NOT BE ARRANGED, BUT GAIRY HAD
LONG MEETING WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS,
AND HE APPARENTLY LEFT WASHINGTON MOLLIFIED IF NOT TOTALLY
SATISFIED AS RESULT THAT CONVERSATION.

2. OAS GENERAL COMMITTEE MET JANUARY 25 TO HEAR GAIRY'S

PLANS FOR GA, AND SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA GAVE INFORMAL LUNCHEON FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETING. GAIRY DESCRIBED GOG EFFORTS TO DATE, INCLUDING GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURE TO HOUSE GA. HE

SUGGESTED STRONGLY THAT GRENADA WOULD NEED ASSISTANCE TO MAKE GA SUCCESSFUL.

3. GAIRY TOOK OFFENSE WHEN USREP ASKED ABOUT PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN HOLDING OAS IN GRENADA AND WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED WHEN TOLD BILATERAL US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR OASGA IS UNLIKELY. GAIRY RUDELY ATTACKED PRESIDENT FORD BY NAME AND US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE POLICIES GENERALLY FOR PROMISING MUCH AND DOING LITTLE (MEMCON POUNCHED TO BRIDGETOWN).

4. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING JAMAICA EXPRESSED FEELING THAT ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WOULD LEND SUPPORT TO GRENADIAN EFFORTS BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT AID JAMAICA WOULD PROVIDE. ARGENTINA REP EXPRESSED CONCERN AT COST OF OAS MEETINGS AND STRESSED NEED TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. PANAMANIAN REP SAID SITE OF GRENADA WAS DECIDED AND IT WAS TIME TO SET A DATE. GAIRY RECOMMENDED JUNE 7, OR MAY 25. OAS COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS DATE AT NEXT MEETING.

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5. GAIRY ALSO INTRODUCED HIS NEW OAS REP, ALFREDO NEIRA. NEIRA IS APPARENTLY COLOMBIAN-BORN US RESIDENT AND POSSIBLY US CITIZEN WHO IS ON FACULTY OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND WHO WILL APPARENTLY ACTUALLY OCCUPY GRENADA'S HERETOFORE NORMALLY VACANT CHAIR.

6. JANUARY 28 GAIRY MET WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS FOR ONE AND HALF HOURS. MAIN POINTS OF CONVERSATION WERE GAIRY'S COMPLAINT ABOUT USOAS REP, REQUESTS FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND DESIRE TO APPOINT AS GRENADIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES US CITIZENS NOW RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON.

7. OAS - GAIRY OPENED CONVERSATION WITH COMPLAINT ABOUT USOAS REP ALLEGEDLY THROWING OUT OBSTACLES AND TRYING TO REMOVE GA FROM GRENADA. AFTER LONG DISCOURSE BY GAIRY, LUERS REPLIED THAT US IS NOT TRYING TO SABOTAGE OASGA IN GRENADA; OAS VOTED TO HOLD IT THERE AND WE HOPE IT GOES WELL. LUERS DID NOT RPT NOT PROMISE USG ASSISTANCE. GAIRY SAID HE WAS NOT SEEKING IT.

8. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE - GAIRY REPEATEDLY DESCRIBED GRENADA'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO ALLEGED US "PASSIVE RESISTANCE"

TO PROPOSALS FROM GRENADIAN REPRESENTATIVES. GAIRY STRESSED THAT TOO MUCH US AID IS GIVEN COUNTRIES FAR REMOVED BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND IDEOLOGICALLY. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF GRENADA

AND SURROUNDING WATERS AND STATED FIRM BELIEF THAT OIL AND OTHER VALUABLE MINERALS WOULD BE FOUND. HE ALSO ASKED FOR POLICE TRAINING, FMS CREDITS AND GRANTS, AND SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALES.

9. LUERS REPLIED THAT WE ARE REVIEWING OUR CARIBBEAN CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICIES IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CARIBBEAN. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT POLICE TRAINING AID NOW IS FORBIDDEN BY LAW; FMS GRANTS ARE BEING PHASED OUT, FMS SALES BEING REDUCED. HE OFFERED TO FOLLOW UP ON SURPLUS SALES POSSIBILITIES. HE MADE NO RPT NO ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS.

10. GAIRY ALSO GAVE HIS VERSION OF ENCOUNTER WITH FORMER PRESIDENT FORD, DURING WHICH GAIRY CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED COMMITMENT FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR GRENADA. ASKED WHAT FORD SAID SPECIFICALLY, GAIRY REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A COMMITMENT BUT DID NOT PROVIDE SPECIFICS. IN THIS CONTEXT HE ALSO STRESSED THAT GRENADA IS ONLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COUNTRY "NOT MAKING LOVE WITH CUBA."

11. GAIRY DISMISSED CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AS INEFFICIENT AND UNCOOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS DONE LITTLE FOR THE SMALL MEMBER STATES. HE SAID SMALL EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BENEFIT MORE IF FUNDS NOW PROVIDED TO CDB WERE INSTEAD CHANNELLED TO EASTERN CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY (ECCA).

12. DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS -GAIRY SAID HE HAD LOOKED INTO LEGALITIES OF DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS OF DIPLOMATS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF THE RECEIVING STATE IF RPT IF RECEIVING STATE CONSENTS. HE ASKED THAT IN CASE OF GRENADA US MAKE EXCEPTION TO OUR PRACTICE OF REFUSING TO ACCEPT US CITIZENS AS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

13. LUERS EXPLAINED USG VIEW THAT DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO US SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE US CITIZENS. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF GUYANESE WHO GAVE UP US CITIZENSHIP TO ACCEPT DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT IN GUYANA EMBASSY HERE. CONFIDENTIAL

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LUERS SAID WE WOULD REVIEW HISTORY OF US PRACTICE, BUT
COULD NOT PROMISE FAVORABLE RESULT.

14. GAIRY SAID HE WISHED TO KEEP MRS. MCINTYRE AS
AMBASSADOR TO THE US, EVEN THOUGH SHE IS RESIDENT IN

GRENADA. HE SAID HE WISHED TO APPOINT A "DEPUTY
AMBASSADOR" RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON, AND HE INTRODUCED
AS HIS CHOICE MRS. ENA M. ST. LOUIS, GRENADIAN BORN
US CITIZEN AND ATTORNEY IN WASHINGTON. HE ALSO
INTRODUCED A MRS. CARRUTHERS, A GRENADIAN CITIZEN
RESIDENT HERE, WHOM HE INTENDS TO APPOINT FIRST SECRE-
TARY IN HIS EMBASSY. GAIRY ALSO SAID HE WOULD APPOINT
US CITIZEN DR. ROY BATISTE, WASHINGTON DENTIST AND
PRESIDENT OF LOCAL CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION, AS HONORARY
CONSUL. GAIRY SAID HIS NEW OFFICE IN WASHINGTON WOULD
OPEN FEBRUARY 1.

15. COMMENT: GAIRY CAME INTO THE MEETING IN AN ANGRY
MOOD BUT COOLED OFF VISIBLY DURING LONG CONVERSATION
WITH LURES LEAVING WASHINGTON FOLLOWING DAY, HE
COMMENTED TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HIS VISIT HAD
TURNED OUT "JUST FINE."

16. IT IS CLEAR THAT GAIRY IS DETERMINED TO STAGE OASGA
IN GRENADA, COME WHAT MAY. HE MAY OR MAY NOT COME
BACK TO US FOR ASSISTANCE.

17. GAIRY SEEMS GENUINELY TO MISUNDERSTAND GENERAL
STATEMENTS OF UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR COMMITMENTS.
RISKS INHERENT IN ANY CONVERSATION WITH GAIRY DEMON-
STRATED BY HIS ATTACK ON PRESIDENT FORD FOR FAILING
TO KEEP SUCH "COMMITMENTS." LUERS WAS VERY CAREFUL
TO STATE THAT HE WAS MAKING NO PROMISES, BUT WE WILL
NOT BE SURPRISED IF GAIRY CHOOSES TO REPRESENT THE
CONVERSATION IN TERMS OF US PROMISES.
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